Labour Ministers' Conference

252. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of State Labour Ministers was held recently in New Delhi at the initiative of the Central Government, to discuss, in depth, various urgent matters concerning labour, both organised and unorganised, in the country, to evolve a national consensus on vexed issues;

(b) if so, the details of the agenda discussed and policy decisions taken, agenda item-wise;

(c) the details of action plan formulated on implementation of labour policies/labour welfare schemes; and

(d) what are the issues on which no consensus could emerge and fresh efforts will have to made to evolve acceptable solution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) A conference of the State Labour Ministers was held on 7-8th July, 1997 to review the progress in the implementation of the directives of the Supreme Court on child labour, discuss the provisions of the proposed Central Legislation on Agricultural Workers and dual control on the administration of medical care in ESI Corporation.

The review of the implementation of the directives of Supreme Court on child labour revealed that the first phase of the survey on child labour in most of the States/UTs have been completed. The Child Labour Rehabilitation cum Welfare Fund is in the process of being constituted and in many cases employers of children in non-hazardous occupations have been issued notices for ensuring that no child is allowed to work for more than 6 hours a day and arrangements be made by them for at least 2 hours of education to children working in non-hazardous occupations. All the State Governments reiterated their commitment for the implementation of the directives of Supreme Court in letter and spirit.

In regard to the proposed central legislation on Agricultural Workers, representatives of State Govts., expressed different views. While the State Govt. of West Bengal Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Tripura, Kerala, Rajasthan, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Orissa, Jammu & Kashmir, Goa, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman Nicobar islands, National Capital Territory of Delhi & Union Territory of Chandigarh supported the proposed legialation, the State Govt. of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat had certain reservations about it in view of the local conditions prevailing in those States.

The item on dual control on administration of medical care in ESI Corporation was briefly presented in the conference.

Agency for detecting child labour in Beedi sector

253. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the specific agency responsible for detecting employment of child labour in the beedi sector, alongwith the full details of that agency;

(b) the achievements of this agency during the period 1995-96 to 1996-97;

(c) the efforts being made to increase its activities in the current year; and

(d) the steps proposed to prevent employment of child labour in the beedi sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) Under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 the employment of children is prohibited in 7 occupations and 18 processes contained in Part A and

B of the Schedule to the Act. Bidi-making is included in the Schedule to the Act and, therefore, the employment of children in Bidi making is prohibited under the Act. The respective State/UT Governments are the Appropriate Governments under the Act for detecting employment of child labour in Bidi sector. The State Governments through enforcement machinary, therefore, enforce the provisions of the Act with a view to prevent employment of children in all the prohibited occupations and processes including Bidi Sector. The Supreme Court of India in their judgement dated 10.12.96 has *inter-alia* given a number of directions regarding the manner in which children working in hazardous occupations including those in Bidi sector are to be withdrawn and rehabilitated. A number of steps have been taken for the implementation of the directions of the Court.

The Central Government monitors the overall enforcement of the Act on the basis of reports furnished by the State Governments. Sector specific information regarding the enforcement of the Act, however, is not maintained.

खतरनाक उद्योगों में कार्य कर रहे बाल-श्रमिकों के हितों की रक्षा हेतु नई योजना

254. **श्री इकबाल सिंह:** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने देश के विभिन्न खतरनाक उद्योगों में कार्य कर रहे बाल-श्रमिकों के हितों की रक्षा के लिए कोई नई योजना तैयार की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या मुख्य कारण हैं; और

(घ) सरकार ने बाल-श्रमिकों का शोषण रोकने तथा उनके हितों की रक्षा करने के लिए अब तक क्या-क्या प्रभावी उपाय किए हैं?

श्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम०पी० वीरेन्द्र कुमार): (क) से (ग) इस परियोजनागत विधि के माध्यम से जोखिमकारी व्यवसायों में कार्यरत लगभग 2 मिलियन बच्चों के पुनर्वास के लिए अगस्त 1994 में एक प्रमुख कार्यक्रम की घोषणा की गई थी। घोषणा की अनुवर्ती कार्रवाई के रूप में अनेक कदम उठाये गये है जिनमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ राष्ट्रीय बाल श्रम परियोजनाएं स्थापित करना शामिल है। परियोजनाओं के अंतर्गत विशेष स्कूलों की स्थापना, गैर-पारम्परिक शिक्षा, व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण, पोषणाहार, वृत्तिका आदि प्रदान करने के लिए की जाती है। जोखिमकारी व्यवसायों में कार्य करने वाले लगभग 1.5 लाख बालकों के पुनर्वास के लिए अभी तक 76 बाल श्रम परियोजनाएं स्थापित की गयी हैं। उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार विशेष स्कूलों में लगभग 1.05 लाख बालकों को पहले ही दाखिला दिया जा चुका है।

(घ) बाल श्रम (प्रतिषेध एवं विनियमन) अधिनियम, 1986 के अंतर्गत इस अधिनियम की अनुसूची के भाग-अ और ब में वर्णित 7 व्यवसायों और 18 प्रक्रियाओं में बच्चों का नियोजन प्रतिषिद्ध है। इस अधिनियम के अंतर्गत प्रतिषिद्ध न किये गये व्यवसायों और प्रक्रियाओं में रोजगार की दशा विनियमित की जाती है। बालकों की रक्षा करने के लिये कारखाना अधिनियम, खान अधिनियम, बागान श्रम अधिनियम, मोटर परिवहन कर्मकार अधिनियम, दुकान एवं वाणिज्यिक प्रतिष्ठान अधिनियमों आदि जैसे विभिन्न अन्य श्रम कानूनों में भी उपबंध विहित हैं। सरकार का यह प्रयास रहा है कि कामकाजी बालकों के हित की रक्षा करने के लिए विभिन्न श्रम कानूनों को एक सामंजस्यपूर्ण ढंग से प्रवर्तित किया जाये।

Non-payment of compensation to workers of relocated industrial units

255. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the non-payment of compensation to the majority of workers of 169 polluting industrial units, being relocated out of the Delhi;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken so far to ensure that workers are paid compensation in accordance with decision of the Supreme Court; and

(c) whether any rehabilitation plan is being thought of, so that affected workers are gainfully employed?